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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 25, 2005

Governor Bill Owens Presents Carson Elementary School with the 2005 Earth Day Elementary School of the Year Award

Lakewood, CO -- Governor Bill Owens presented Carson Elementary School with the 2005 Earth Day Elementary School of the Year Award at a ceremony that was hosted by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and held on April 22, 2005, at Carson in Denver, Colorado.

"I am really proud of what you are doing to make this earth a better place to live," said Governor Bill Owens.

The award presentation was the result of a contest developed by the USDA Earth Day Coalition, which consists of representatives from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Jefferson Conservation District, Colorado Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service, and Farm Service Agency.

The contest recognizes schools that have incorporated natural resources and environmental issues into their curriculum. Ms. Kerry Santambrogio and her science group of first through fifth grade students submitted a contest application on behalf of Carson.

"I am honored to accept this award on behalf of the entire community of Carson Elementary," said Santambrogio. *"Today we renew our commitment to stewardship of*

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our shared community, Earth.”

“Thanks to our principal, Gwen Gethers, who has not only supported, but embraced this program from its conception,” Santambrogio went on to say.

Carson received a trophy and was officially designated as the 2005 Denver Public Schools Elementary School of the Year for their detailed and creative plan to beautify their school's landscape with a “Colorado Garden,” which will be created by recycling cafeteria lunch waste into worm food for their compost boxes.

“You have done your part as far as keeping this planet as great as it is,” said Allen Green, NRCS State Conservationist. *“We will continue to do our part.”*

Each year, the contest is open to elementary schools in the Denver Public Schools District to encourage teachers to plan new Earth Day activities or to publicize their ongoing Earth Day efforts. The Coalition generally presents the award to the winning school on Earth Day, which is April 22nd.

For more information on the Coalition and the Earth Day contest, please contact Katherine Burse-Johnson at 720-544-2863.

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